

# CHILD CARE



## *Toxic House Plants & Your Family Child Care Home*

### **TOXIC HOUSE PLANTS AND YOUR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME**

When you “child-proof” your home for child care, make sure there are no toxic plants that a child could eat. Infants and toddlers are likely to put anything into their mouths. **You need to be able to identify all your house plants and remove any that may be poisonous.**

Plants vary in their levels of toxicity, from “highly toxic, possibly life-threatening” to “mildly irritating.” Also, the **amount** of a plant a child eats and how much a child weighs affect the level of toxicity. For example, if a fifty-pound child ate one leaf of a philodendron she might suffer a little irritation in her mouth and throat. She might also vomit a little. However, if a fifteen-pound child ate three leaves, the back of his throat might swell enough to block his air-way, and he could choke.

**These plants are mildly toxic, but not deadly. they should be kept out of reach:**

- Aloe
- Anthuriium (flamingo flower)
- Schefflera (umbrella tree)
- Capsicum annuum (Christmas Pepper)
- Cyclamen
- Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane, Mother-in-Law's Tongue)
- Hedra helix (English Ivy)
- Philodendron

**The following plants are highly toxic, and should never be in a family child care home:**

- Jatropha multifida (coral plant)
- Lantana camara (Yellow sage)
- Ricinus communis (Castor Oil Plant)
- Taxus Species (Yew)
- Nerium oleander

*One leaf on an oleander plant could seriously harm a child. Placing the plant on a window sill or in a hanging basket is not safe enough. Leaves could fall off the plant and a curious infant or toddler could eat them.*

**Other plants can also be poisonous. For more complete information, contact your local Poison Control Center.**



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